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NEW MUSIC REPORT

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SPOTLIGHT

RACHAEL SAGE

REVIEWED: THE DONNAS, SIMIAN, RONI SIZE, H20, TRÉ HARDSON, AVAIL + MORE!

VENDETTA RED

ROMAN CANDLE

CAVE IN

CMJ MUSIC MARATHON 2002

Featured Artists:

CAVE IN • ROMAN CANDLE • VENDETTA RED

"Must Do" Marathon Highlights

see page 16

STATION PROFILE
WRRG/RIVER GROVE, IL REVEALED!

LOUD ROCK
CHEVELLE SALES REV UP

CMJ RETAIL
SEA NO CHANGE: BECK AGAIN!

ON THE CHARTS: **BECK** LOCKED INTO NO.1 POSITION, **DREDG** DOMINATES MOST ADDED

11/4/2002

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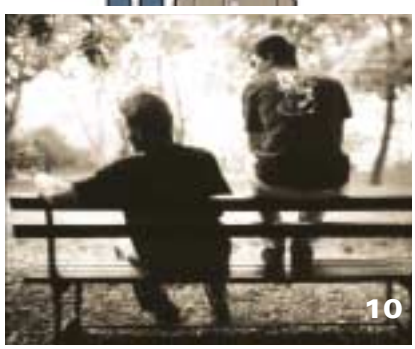
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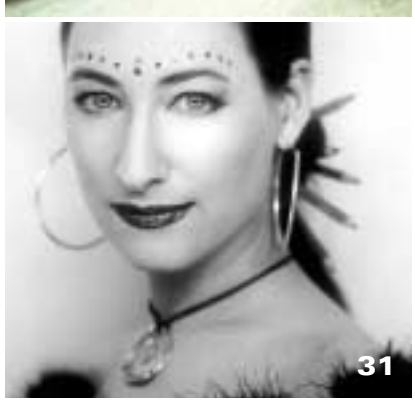
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FEATURES

10 Featured CMJ Music Marathon Performers
With so many bands converging on New York City for this year's CMJ Music Marathon, it's hard for one to decide how to spend their time. However, there are certain acts that deserve everyone's attention. Although they come from various backgrounds and play different styles of music, Roman Candle, Cave In and Vendetta Red do have one common thread: all three deliver honest, compelling and sincere music that is sure to move the listener. Perhaps Vendetta Red's Zach Davidson said it best: "We feel like a band's foundation is its music, and we want to write timeless music."

DEPARTMENTS

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16 "Must Do" Marathon Highlights
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2002 CMJ MUSIC MARATHON FEATURED ARTIST
ROMAN CANDLE

When a professional football player decides to start up a record label, one might assume that it would be a metal or hip-hop label. But when Denver Broncos defensive fullback **Trevor Pryce** stumbled upon some MP3s by a North Carolina band called **Roman Candle**, he was so smitten by what he heard that he immediately signed them to his just-launched Outlook Music label.

Comprised of brothers **Logan** and **Skip Matheny**, Roman Candle is decidedly not hip-hop or metal. If you were in a pinch and absolutely *had* to tag the band with a genre, you could loosely brand it as "power-pop." That term may describe what the band does musically; after all, Roman Candle has all the catchy hooks and volume of vintage **Cheap Trick**, but the power-pop tag doesn't really describe Roman Candle's heartfelt lyrics or its soulful delivery, which is much closer to **Ryan Adams** than to the **Knack**. Combine the power-pop chops and the singer-songwriter delivery and you have a sound that is not only ready made for college radio, but also helped Roman Candle find a place for itself within the legendary Chapel Hill music scene.

"The Chapel Hill music scene, as we've experienced it, is in a stage where it's not really defined by one particular thing or type of music," says Skip. "When we started playing in Chapel Hill, we'd play anywhere that would take us — from the clubs full of hipsters to the bars full of frat boys. We seemed to get a good reaction everywhere and I think we were accepted because of our songwriting."

"Our dad was a band director and his father was a choir director in a Southern Baptist church," explains Logan when asked what first inspired him and his brother to write songs. "Our mom's side of the family would make pilgrimages to the Grand Ole Opry every Sunday in a flatbed truck. Music has been in our family for years-and-years."

"Another thing that inspires us is good songs," adds Skip. "When a person reaches 16, they discover what they think is a good song — whether it's **Bob Dylan**, **Leonard Cohen**, **Smokey Robinson** or even **Britney Spears**. Hearing great music while we where growing up really inspired us."

Although being exposed to a steady diet of Dylan and Smokey at an early age can do wonders for the artistic development of a person, the Matheny brothers were influenced by more than just music. The two are fans of literature. This love has filtered through to the confessional tone of the lyrics on Roman Candle's debut album, *Says Pop*.

"We are big fans of writers like **Flannery O'Connor** and **Walker Percy**," offers Skip. "Anything that can get a story across just by details kind of puts you in the moment. A pop song is a really limited format. Traditionally, songwriters have just three-and-half-minutes and a limited amount of words that they can fit into that time, so details are very important. O'Connor was a master of using detail."

Old Southern texts may have taught the brothers a lesson in lyrical thrift and attention to detail, but it also taught them something even more important: It taught them how to be good storytellers. The art of storytelling seems to be a lost art in the realm of 21st Century pop music, but it's one Roman Candle takes seriously.

"None of the stories in our songs are autobiographical," says Skip. "Stories are more interesting when they don't come from somebody delving into their own psyche. Parts of all our songs come from our own personal experience, but those parts are only sections added to created characters. I try to put things in our songs to let listeners know that it's not something that has happened to me in particular. The most blatant line on the record is, 'I'm an old man now.' I'm 24 years old and that's not something that somebody my age would say. At the same time, it's true that your subconscious dictates the subtext."

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In addition to being proficient songwriters, the members of Roman Candle are also competent producers. The tracks on the album were recorded in a basement studio. During the recording process, the brothers listened to as many producers as they listened to artists. "We really like the idea of writing a song on acoustic guitar or piano and taking it into the studio and making it into a recording," explains Skip.

The band gathers a lot of ideas from the great producers of the past, as well as the trip-hop producers of today. "**Brian Wilson**, **Phil Spector** and **Jimmy Page** were all great," says Logan. "And so are **DJ Shadow**, **Groove Armada** and **Massive Attack**. They are really good at bringing out subtleties."

Despite the impact that current electronic producers has on Roman Candle, the band will always aim to keep things organic with an old analog warmth.

"On the album, we have guitar sounds that we were getting in the basement that we were trying to get to sound like samples, because some samples have the warmth and crackle of old recordings," explains Skip. "So it sounds electronic, but it is real."

From the lyrics to the guitar chords to the organic production, "real" is exactly what Roman Candle is.

— Brad Filicky

SHOWCASE:
Friday, November 1, Cutting Room
Set Time: 8:00 p.m. (Limited Badges; Arrive Early)

CMJ RADIO 200

Period Ending 10/22/2002

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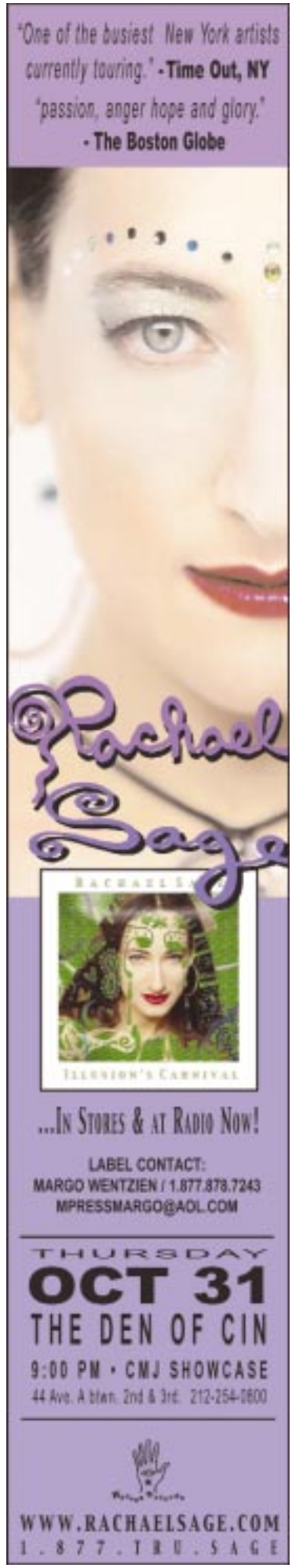
TW	LW	2W	PK	WKS	ARTIST + TITLE	LABEL
151	171	–	151	2	**DJ VADIM** USSR: The Art Of Listening	**Ninja Tune**
152	90	63	20	10	**MUDHONEY** Since We've Become Translucent	**Sub Pop**
153	146	90	52	10	**TSUNAMI BOMB** The Ultimate Escape	**Kung Fu**
154	126	133	126	5	**DELBERT MCCLINTON** Room To Breathe	**New West**
155	99	88	29	8	**MERCURY PROGRAM** A Data Learn The Language	**Tiger Style**
156	–	–	156	1	**HEROS SEVERUM** Wonderful Educated Bear	**Two Sheds Music**
157	–	–	157	1	**INSTRUMENTS** Billions Of Phonographs	**Orange Twin**
158	145	145	144	5	**SHEILA DIVINE** Secret Society EP	**Arena Rock**
159	122	155	52	15	**RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS** By The Way	**Warner Bros.**
160	141	132	125	5	**FUZZ TOWNSHEND** Fuzz Townshend	**Stinky**
161	139	73	54	11	**SLUM VILLAGE** Trinity (Past, Present And Future)	**Barak-Capitol**
162	136	136	12	15	**HOT SNAKES** Suicide Invoice	**Swami**
163	–	–	163	1	**TINO'S BREAKS** Volume 6 - Hallowe'en Dub	**Tino Corp.**
164	184	–	164	2	**J MASCIS AND THE FOG** Free So Free	**Ultimatum Music**
165	–	–	165	1	**MATT KEATING** Tilt A Whirl	**Future Farmer**
166	–	–	166	1	**JESSICA BAILIFF** Jessica Bailiff	**Kranky**
167	–	–	167	1	**GIFT MACHINE** Don't Turn Me Off	**Knw-yr-own**
168	–	–	168	1	**AUDIOSLAVE** Cochise [CD5]	**Epic**
169	R	–	169	2	**FOO FIGHTERS** One By One	**RCA-Roswell**
170	–	–	170	1	**ROMAN CANDLE** Says Pop	**Outlook**
171	180	144	144	4	**JOAN OSBORNE** How Sweet It Is	**CMPI**
172	170	–	170	2	**T-MODEL FORD** Bad Man	**Fat Possum**
173	160	–	160	2	**AMON TOBIN** Out From Out Where	**Ninja Tune**
174	–	–	174	1	**MARK KNOPFLER** The Ragpicker's Dream	**Warner Bros.**
175	169	121	70	9	**BLIND BOYS OF ALABAMA** Higher Ground	**RealWorld**
176	176	125	115	4	**AMALGAMATED SONS OF REST** Amalgamated Sons Of Rest	**Galaxia**
177	R	138	39	9	**MEKONS** Oooh!	**Quarterstick**
178	–	–	178	1	**TIN HAT TRIO** The Rodeo Eroded	**Atlantic-Ropeadope**
179	144	174	141	6	**EYES ADRIFT** Eyes Adrift	**spinART**
180	179	182	173	4	**U2** Electrical Storm [CD5]	**Interscope**
181	148	79	62	7	**MATT SKIBA AND KEVIN SECONDS** Split CD	**Asian Man**
182	–	–	182	1	**BEEHIVE AND THE BARRACUDAS** Plastic Soul	**Swami**
183	R	131	3	26	**CLINIC** Walking With Thee	**Domino**
184	–	–	184	1	**XIU XIU** Chapel Of Chimes	**Absolutely Kosher**
185	111	76	76	6	**FILMMAKER** An Invitation To An Accident	**Farway**
186	–	–	186	1	**JAMES YORKSTON AND THE ATHLETES** Moving Up Country	**Domino**
187	194	–	187	2	**DROPKICK MURPHYS** Live On St. Patrick's Day	**Epitaph-Hellcat**
188	97	70	32	9	**MCLUSKY** Mclusky Do Dallas	**Beggars Group-Too Pure**
189	–	–	189	1	**ETHOS** I'm A No One	**EthosCentral**
190	–	–	190	1	**VARIOUS ARTISTS** Red Hot + Riot	**MCA**
191	157	183	157	5	**PETER CASE** Beeline	**Vanguard**
192	R	–	133	3	**SNITCHES** Star Witness	**Oh! Tonito**
193	R	169	50	10	**DRIVE-BY TRUCKERS** Southern Rock Opera	**Lost Highway**
194	113	106	89	6	**JACKPOT** Shiny Things	**Surfdog**
195	133	172	133	5	**VENDETTA RED** Cut Your Noose	**Epic**
196	185	150	60	12	**BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN** The Rising	**Columbia**
197	–	–	197	1	**25 SUAVES** 1938	**Bulb**
198	–	–	198	1	**REUNION SHOW** Kill Your Television	**Victory**
199	142	171	142	5	**THE SLIP** Angels Come On Time	**Rykodisk**
200	182	165	165	3	**HAPPY SUPPLY** Crucial Cuts	**Dutch Courage-Gifted Records**